Act 28

Labor Day

I'M JUST FINE. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO CALM DOWN, DEAR.
YOU CHOSE A GOOD DAY TO ARRIVE.
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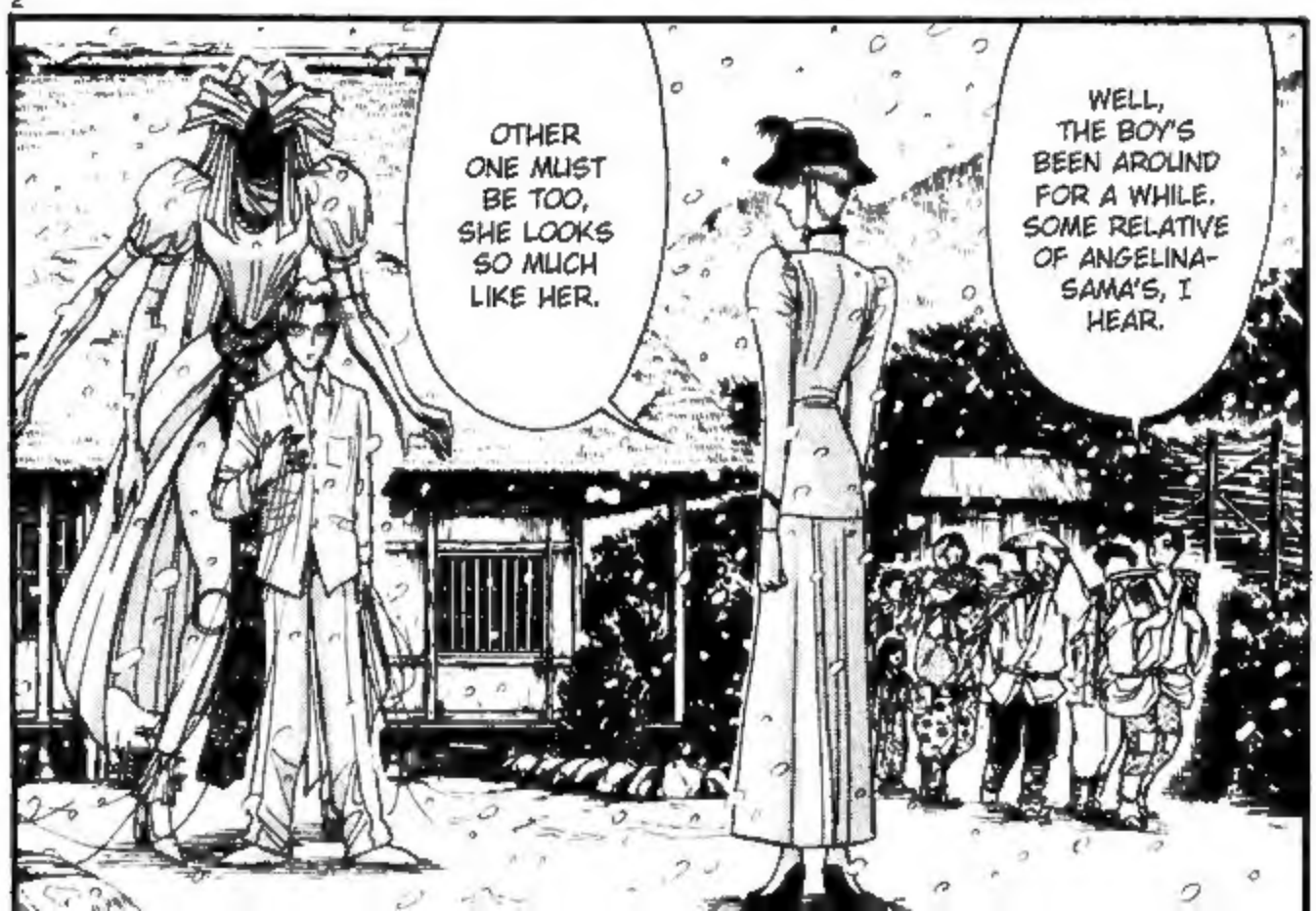
J-JUST KEEP YOUR COOL, NOW, ANGE-LINA.

OH? WHAT'RE THOSE TWO FOREIGNERS DOIN' HERE?

LEAVE THINGS TO THE MIDWIFE FROM HERE ON IN.
Y'ALL JUST HURRY UP AND GET MOVIN'.
SHOULDA BEEN A MONTH TO GO YET.
AIN'T THIS COMIN' EARLIER THAN IT OUGHT TO'VE?

2


OTHER ONE MUST BE TOO, SHE LOOKS SO MUCH LIKE HER.
WELL, THE BOY'S BEEN AROUND FOR A WHILE. SOME RELATIVE OF ANGELINA-SAMA'S, I HEAR.

I'M BUSY THINKING.
YOU KEEP QUIET.
WERE YOU NOT ABOUT TO DISMANTLE ME, SHIROGANE?

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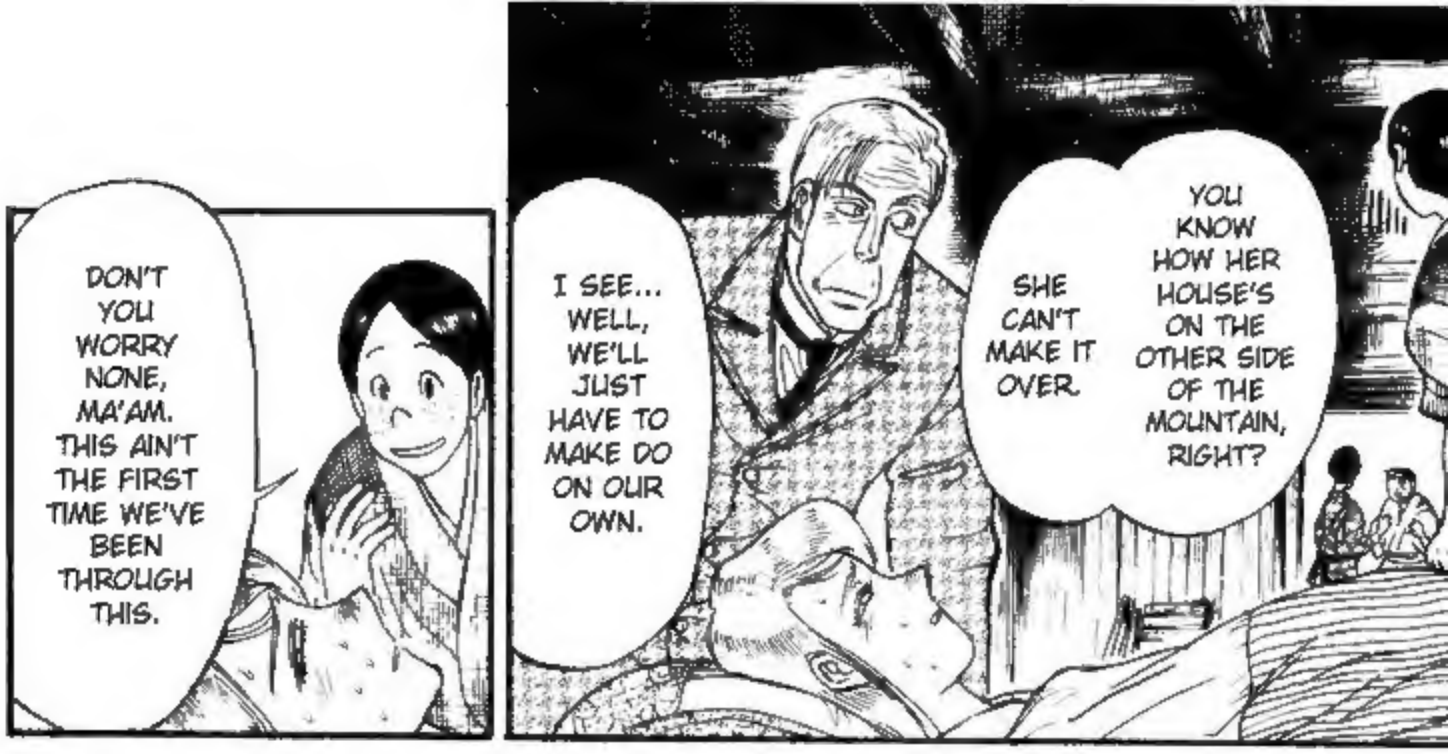
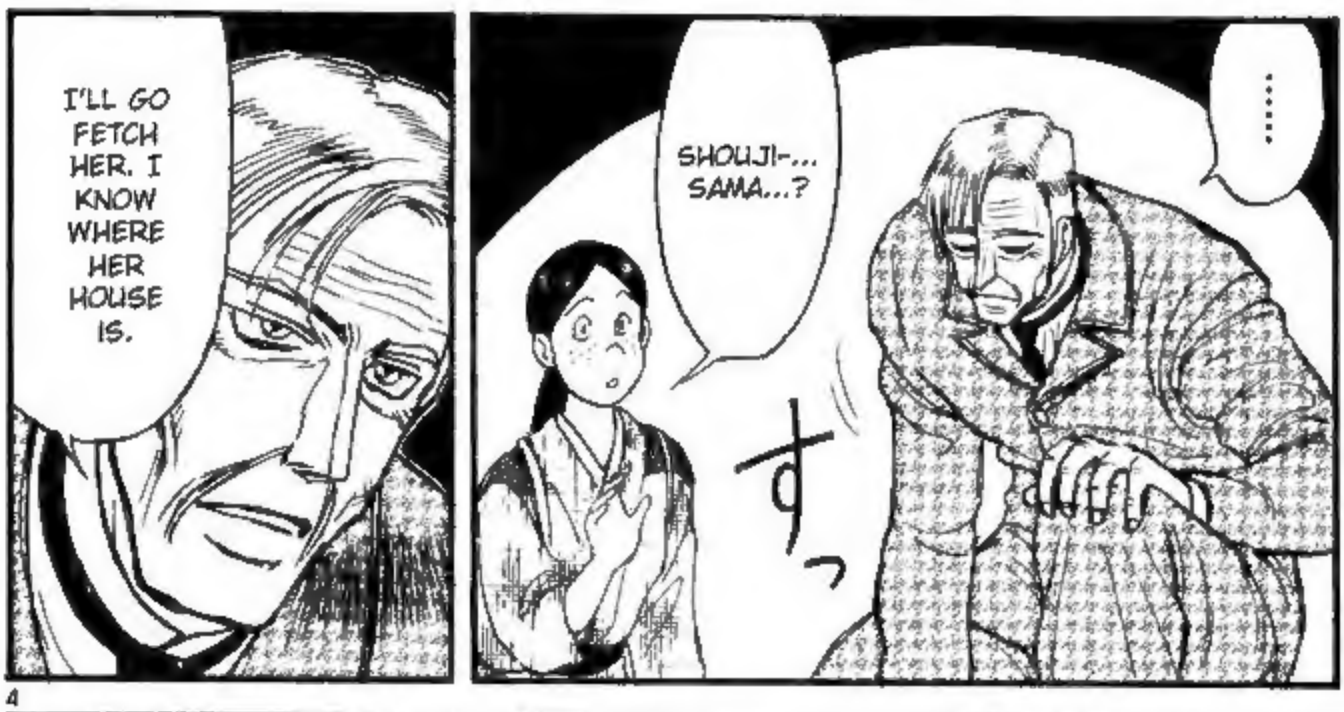
HEY! HEEEEY! I GOT BAD NEWS!

SHE'S STRAINED HER BACK! SAYS SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY COME TO TOWN TODAY!
SHE AIN'T?! WHY ON EARTH NOT?!
THAT'S JUST IT! THE OLD MIDWIFE AIN'T COMIN'!
GEN-SAN? WHERE'S TAMI-SAN? WEREN'T YOU OFF TELLING HER TO COME?


DON'T YOU WORRY NONE, MA'AM. THIS AIN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS.
I SEE... WELL, WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO ON OUR OWN.
SHE CAN'T MAKE IT OVER.
YOU KNOW HOW HER HOUSE'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN, RIGHT?


I'LL GO FETCH HER. I KNOW WHERE HER HOUSE IS.
SHOUJI-... SAMA...?
.....

4

YOU HANG IN THERE.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK, ANGE-LINA...

I WANT TO DO ALL I CAN TO HELP MY WIFE.
I'VE DELIVERED MY SHARE OF BABIES, TOO, LONG AGO. BUT AS THE SAYING GOES, YOU LEAVE YOUR MOCHI TO THE MOCHI-MAKERS.
I'M GLAD TO DO IT...

WHAT?! CARRY HER HERE, YOU MEAN?!
AIN'T NO NEED FOR THAT. WE'LL MANAGE JUST FINE.

BE... CAREFUL...
I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN.
I HAVE TRANSPOR-TATION.
ME AND ONE OF THE YOUNG MEN FROM THE VIL-LAGE'LL GO WITH YA, OF COURSE, BUT...
BUT YOU MIGHT NOT EVEN MAKE IT BACK IN TIME!

GUY-KUN, LET ME BORROW OLYMPIA.
!!!
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...YOU'RE LEAVING DOLL FRANCINE AND ME BEHIND?
I'M HERE TO KIDNAP YOUR BABY, YOU KNOW.
YES, I KNOW THAT. BUT THERE'S NO POINT IN YOU GOING.
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HER HOUSE IS.
SO...
6
I'M ASKING YOU MAN TO MAN.
TAKE CARE OF AN-GELINA.

I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON THE AUTOMATON AND MAKE SURE ...
SHE DOESN'T TRY ANYTHING FUNNY.
VERY WELL.
THAT'S SUCH A CLICHE.
HA ...
"MAN TO MAN" ...?
WHOA, NELLY! IS THAT A PUPPET UP THERE WITH A FURRINER RIDIN' ON IT?
THEY'RE FLYIN'...!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!

GET OVER HERE!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU ALL DOIN' JUST STANDIN' AROUND?!

COURSE I AM! YOU GOT KIN GIVIN' BIRTH IN THERE!
ARE YOU SPEAKING TO ME?
YOU ARE INCLU-DING ME?
"YOU ALL"... THE PLURAL FORM?

8

DON'T GO PUSHIN' JUST YET, MA'AM.

JUST GET INSIDE!
I AM AN AUTO—
NO, I'M NOT ...
KIN?
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すた
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Won't need the charm for easy childbirth no more.
KEEP BREATHIN' CALM.
THAT'S IT. LET'S GET YOU COMFOR-TABLE... THIS OKAY?

"ANGELINA" DOING? IS SHE ILL?
WHAT IS...
.....

WAIT A MINUTE, WHY AM I SITTING NEXT TO AN AUTO-MATON?!
IT'S WHEN—
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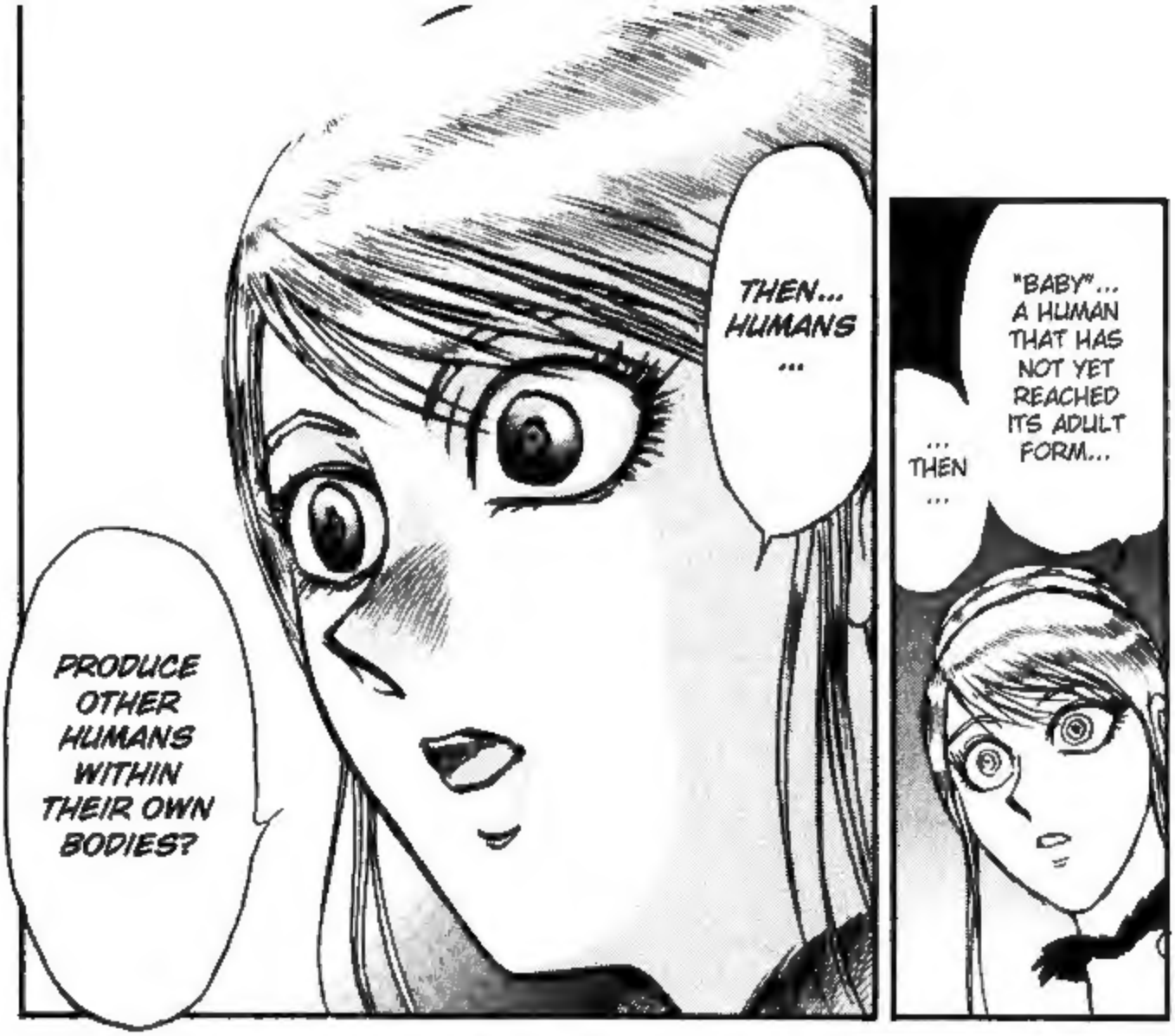
AND... WHAT IS LA-BOR?
HER CONTRAC-TIONS HAVE STARTED, AND THE CERVIX IS DILATING.
NO! SHE'S IN LABOR.

SFX: GASP

KEEP QUIET. LABOR IS WHEN A BABY INSIDE THE WOMB IS BORN— WHEN IT COMES OUT OF YOUR BODY.
PLEASE TELL ME. WHAT IS LABOR?

TCH! I MAY BE ILL.
I WAS DRAGGED INSIDE ALONG WITH YOU...


THEN... HUMANS ...
PRODUCE OTHER HUMANS WITHIN THEIR OWN BODIES?
"BABY"... A HUMAN THAT HAS NOT YET REACHED ITS ADULT FORM...
... THEN ...

I NEVER CARED TO STUDY ANY-THING BUT HUMAN EMOTIONS ...
WE'RE MAM-MALS! OF COURSE THAT'S WHAT WE DO!

AND THE BOY... "GUY", WAS IT? GET THE FIRE BURNIN' HOTTER TO WARM UP THE ROOM!
GET BUSY WITH SOMETHIN' BESIDES FLAPPIN' YOUR GUMS. YOU, GIRL, GET THAT CLOTH SPREAD OUT UNDER HER.
SFX: FLAPPING
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SFX: FIRE CRACKLING

I STUDIED MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA IN ITALY.
WEREN'T YOU SAYIN' EARLIER THAT YOU'RE A DOCTOR OR SOME SUCH?
Amazin how good your Japanese is at such a young age
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SFX: COUGHING

NO, NO...! MY FOCUS WAS ON SURGERY... OBSTE-TRICS IS A TOTALLY DIFFERENT ...
EVERY-THING'LL BE JUST FINE NOW, MA'AM!
THERE WAS NO NEED FOR SHOUJI-SAMA TO GO FETCH THE MIDWIFE AT ALL!
WHY THEN, WE GOT NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT!
NO, WAIT A SECOND ...!
HURRY UP AND GO ENCOURAGE HER!

SFX: SMILE

WHAT A RELIEF...
YOU'RE A DOCTOR, GUY...
THAT'S RIGHT ...
AH...
ER... THAT IS...

ISN'T SHOU-JIROU BACK YET?!
TCH ...!

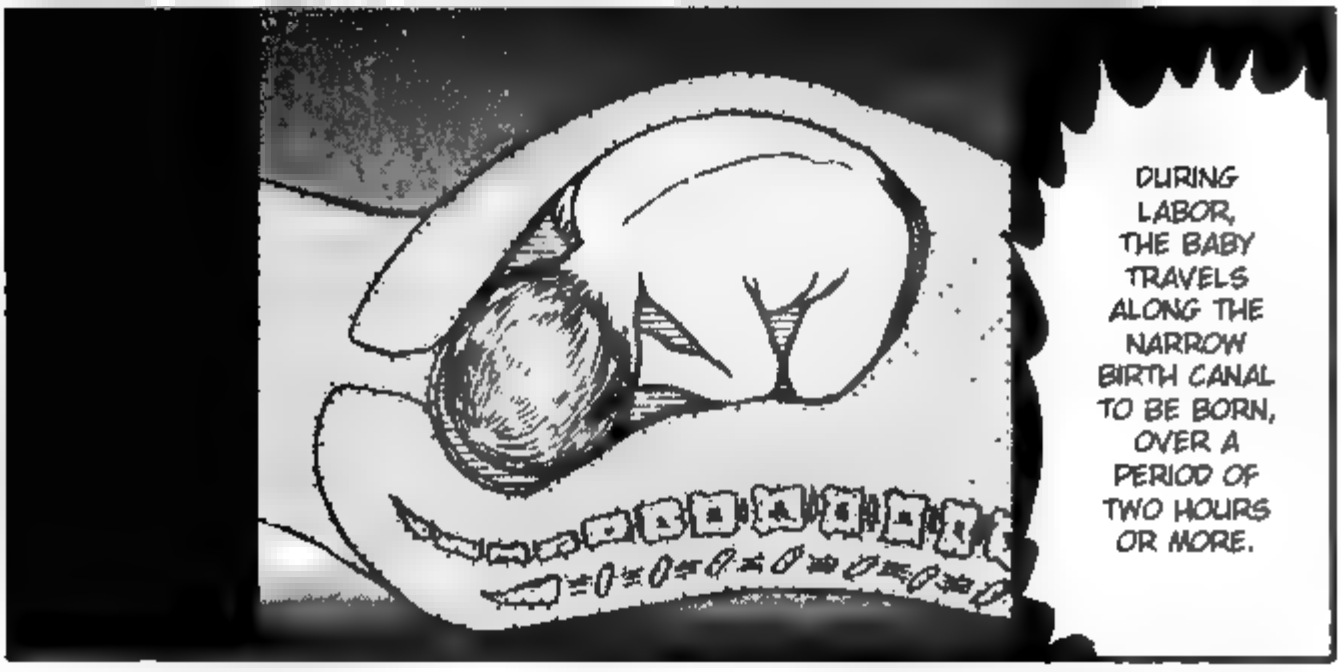
AYE-AYE.
GET THE HOT WATER! I NEED TO WASH MY HANDS!
FINE, I'LL DO IT!

RRGH .

VERY WELL, I'LL EXPLAIN!
?

KEEP QUIET! THE BABY'S PASSAGE THROUGH THE CERVIX AND BIRTH CANAL, THAT'S WHAT!
WHAT IS HAP-PENING QUICKLY?

AND THE TIME BETWEEN CONTRACTIONS IS SHRINKING... IT'S HAPPENING SO QUICKLY ...
THE CERVIX IS EXPANDING RAPIDLY. IT'LL BE FULLY DILATED SOON.


DURING LABOR, THE BABY TRAVELS ALONG THE NARROW BIRTH CANAL TO BE BORN, OVER A PERIOD OF TWO HOURS OR MORE.

THE VAGINA IS ONLY ABOUT TEN CENTIMETERS LONG, BUT THE BABY ADVANCES SLOWLY, SHIFTING ITS POSITION AND ORIENTATION TO AVOID RESIS-TANCE!

GOOD! NOW STOP GETTING IN MY WAY!
OH... I SEE.
AND ADD ABDOMINAL PRESSURE TO HELP THE CHILD MAKE ITS WAY OUT.
SO RIGHT NOW, ANGE-LINA HAS TO PUSH...

DON'T PUSH UNTIL THE MO-MENT COMES ...
KEEP BREA-THING.

YOU KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, MR. DOCTOR. DON'T GET THE MOTHER AGITATED.

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hhu
TAKE SHORT, SHALLOW BREATHS ...
THAT'S IT!
hhu
AND HHU.
HHU ...
RIGHT... LIKE THAT.
hhu
hhu
hhu

hhu
hhu
hhu
YOU'RE ALMOST THERE!
パチ パチ パチ

THIS... THIS IS A...
UGH ...!

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HYAAH...! LORD ABOVE HAVE MERCY!

I'M SORRY ABOUT THE ROUGH TRIP, TAMI-SAN.
BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP.
I UNDER-STAND THAT PART, BUT WITH THIS STRAINED BACK I AIN'T GONNA BE GOOD FOR NOTHIN' BUT ADVICE!

SFX: BURSTING INTO TEARS

THAT'S ALL WE NEED!
'SIDES, BIRTH IS SOMETHIN' MOST WOMEN GO THROUGH. IT'S YOU MEN WHO MAKE ALL THE FUSS OVER IT!
TH-THAT MAY BE TRUE ...
BUT I'M STILL WOR-RIED ...!

*: THIS IS THE MEIJI ERA. MODERN MEDICINE IS MUCH MORE ADVANCED.

THE VILLAGE WOMEN ARE NO SLOUCHES, Y'KNOW.
THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME TROUBLE IF IT'S A BREECH BABY.
A BREECH BIRTH... WHEN THOSE ARE HANDLED BADLY, THE CHILD'S LIFE IS IN DAN-GER.
MAKES FOR A DIFFICULT DELIVERY WHEN THE BABY'S FEET ARE UNDERNEATH AND IT COMES OUT THAT WAY 'STEAD OF HEAD-FIRST.
BUT IT DON'T HAPPEN ALL THAT OFTEN.

ISN'T SHOU-JIROU BACK YET, DAM-MIT?!
THE MIDWIFE STILL ISN'T HERE?!
WHAT IS IT?
IS THERE SOME SORT OF PRO-BLEM?

IT'S A PELVIC PRE-SENTA-TION.
A WHAT ...?

I... DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT HANDLING THIS KIND OF BIRTH.
WE AIN'T GONNA BE ABLE TO HAN-DLE THIS WITHOUT TAMI-SAN!

HURRY, SHOUJIROU! HURRY UP AND GET HERE!
YOUR CHILD COULD BE IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

THAT MEANS IT'S A BREECH BIRTH.

translation by funnuraba.tumblr.com

Kodansha's English-language release of
Black Museum: The Ghost and the Lady (Book 1) is now out!
Please consider buying it to show your support for Fujita's work, and please **don't** mention scanlations of his other manga to anyone involved in the official release!

NOTES:

pg. 4: *Mochi wa mochi-ya*: a saying meaning that if you want the best results, you go to a specialist.
pg. 14: 10 centimeters would be at the lower end of the spectrum (or the speculum, as it were). The vagina can be up to ~18 centimeters in length.

These scanlations have been uploaded *only* to Batoto so that I can remove them if the series is ever licensed. Please read them there instead of on websites that rip them and watermark them to make a profit off your views!

Thanks to Judash137 on the mangafox forums for removing the Japanese text, and to the anonymous person who tipped me off to that!

Any group with more experience or skill is welcome to take over at any time or to redo chapters I have already done if they are below the quality that this series deserves.